

Board of Aldermen would be addressed, the men present approved of the revision.⁶⁷

The revised amendment read:

It is the sense of this meeting that Mayor S. P. Wright and Chief of Police Jno. R. Melton, having demonstrated their utter incapacity to give the city a decent government and keep order therein, their continuance in office being a constant menace to the peace and welfare of this community, they ought forthwith to resign.

After discussion of the amendment was settled, Waddell was chosen to head a committee of 25 men who would “direct the execution of the provisions of the resolutions.” Speakers also thanked the County Executive Committee of the Democratic Party who “successfully conducted this magnificent campaign” and to the newspapers “for the able and effective work done during the great campaign for the overthrow of Republican negro rule.” Further, G. J. Boney made a motion that thanks also be given to Furnifold Simmons for his work. The meeting then adjourned, and after 445 men signed the resolutions, Waddell and others selected the men to serve on the Committee of Twenty-Five. The resolutions, signatures, and committeemen’s names were published in the papers the next day since the November 9 papers had already gone to press.⁶⁸

⁶⁷ *Wilmington Messenger*, 11/10/1898; *Morning Star*, (Wilmington), November 10, 18; Rountree, Memorandum.”

⁶⁸ Members of the Committee of Twenty Five were: Rev. J.W. Kramer, Frank Maunder, Fred Skipper, Dr. W. C. Galloway, Joseph D. Smith, John E. Crow, Junius Davis, Iredell Meares, Preston L. Bridgers, W. F. Robertson, C. W. Worth, A. B. Skelding, F. A.

Local residents quickly informed loved ones by letter of the election victory and the citizens’ meeting. Jack Metts wrote a young lady in Raleigh while the meeting was taking place that the “businessmen are at present holding a big meeting to take steps to run the mayor and some prominent negroes out of town.” He underlined his words “Don’t mention this” supposedly because the information he gave her was only for a few privy leaders.⁶⁹ James Worth also gave details of the meeting to his out-of-town wife. The he explained that there was a citizens’ meeting on the morning of the ninth with about 1,000 men present who passed resolutions requiring that the staff of the *Record* leave town within 12 hours and demanding the resignations of Mayor Silas P. Wright and Chief of Police Melton. Worth explained that a committee of 25 men was appointed to “carry into effect the resolutions.”⁷⁰

Montgomery, Joseph R. Davis, B. F. King, Rev. J. W. S. Harvey, James Ellis, C. L. Spencer, Hugh MacRae, J. Alan Taylor, E. S. Lathrop, F. H. Fechtig, W. H. Northrop, Sr., Frank Stedman, and Gabe Holmes. Rountree was taken aback that Waddell purposefully left him off of the list of the Committee. Three of the Committee were members of the Secret Nine. *Wilmington Messenger*, 11/10/1898; *Morning Star*, (Wilmington), November 10, 1898; Rountree, Memorandum.”

⁶⁹ Jack Metts, November 9, 1898, Hinsdale Papers, Duke University Library, Durham.

⁷⁰ James Worth to Josephine, November 9, 1898, James S. Worth Papers, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.